

Willmar Rail Connector & Industrial Access Project

The Willmar Wye

Project Summary

The Willmar Rail Connector and Industrial Park Access Project (Willmar Wye) will provide a direct connection between the Marshall and Morris Subdivisions of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail network. Providing this direct connection will decrease the number of trains that need to pull into the rail yard in downtown Willmar. The project also includes a rail spur that will provide access to the city of Willmar's industrial park.

Project Benefits

- Improve safety for travelers by reducing at-grade crossing exposure.
- Increase multimodal opportunities for shippers.
- Encourage economic growth.
- Improve quality of life.
- Delay and emissions savings for travelers (e.g. drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists) by reducing wait times for crossings to clear.
- Reduce the number of trains traversing through downtown Willmar and the accompanying noise.

Alternatives Being Considered

Currently, two alternatives are being considered; Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, with Alternative 2 consisting of two options known as 2A and 2B.

Alternative 1 suggests keeping Highway 12 in its current location. Alternative 1 would include construction of a high retaining wall and long bridge lifting Highway 12 over the new rail connection.

Alternatives 2A and 2B are similar in that they suggest the realignment of Highway 12 and the construction of a less complex bridge over the rail connection. Both 2A and 2B would have more traditional embankments.

Alternative 2A provides a crossing of 1st Avenue with the new rail line. This crossing would be at-grade. Alternative 2B would not provide the rail crossing, but would provide a new frontage road to connect 1st Avenue to Highway 12.

All alternatives include a Highway 40 bridge over the railroad. All alternatives can be found at www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/willmarwye/index.html.

Project Partners

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Kandiyohi County
City of Willmar
Kandiyohi County/Willmar Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Project Schedule

Project Schedule	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pre-Design & Environmental Review	1 2	3			
Design		4			
Construction			5		6
Public Engagement					

Contributions

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway
MnDOT
U.S. Department of Transportation (TIGER grant)
Local Road Improvement Program
Kandiyohi County
City of Willmar
EDC

\$16 million
\$17.5 million
\$10 million
\$3.77 million
\$459,000
\$336,000 (right of way costs)
\$35,000

Alternatives Maps

